

# Informations *Rapides*

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Principaux indicateurs

## ■ Quarterly business survey in industry – January 2016

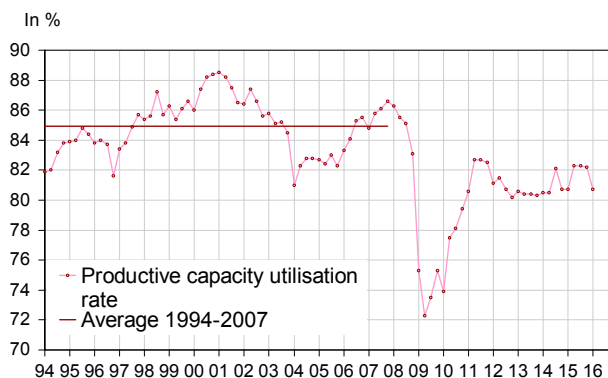
### In the fourth quarter 2015, pressure on production capacity eased

#### Production capacity has declined

In January 2016, the industrialists have reported that pressure on production capacity eased. The production capacity utilisation rate has decreased by 1.5 point compared to the previous quarter. Since the third quarter of 2008, production capacity has been less used in the manufacturing industry than it was on average between 1994 and 2007.

Besides, an increasing number of industrialists consider that they could produce more if they received more orders: the balance on production bottlenecks has diminished and has returned to a level close to normal. Moreover, like in the previous quarter, far more industrialists have indicated difficulties of demand only than difficulties of supply only.

#### Change in the productive capacity utilisation

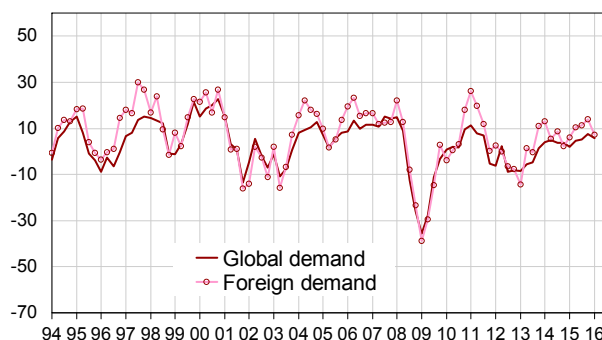


#### Industrialists remain optimistic on their demand prospects

In January 2016, a few less industrialists than in the end of 2015 judge that global demand has increased in the past months; the corresponding balance remain slightly above its mean level. That on foreign demand is virtually stable, slightly above its mean level. Over the next three months, a few less industrialists expect a further improvement in demand, and especially in foreign demand; however, the corresponding balances of opinion are still above average.

#### Balance of opinion of expected change in demand

Balance of opinion, in %



#### Industrialists' opinion: demand and production factors

Balance of opinion, in %

Manufacturing industry	Mean	April 15	July 15	Oct. 15	Jan. 16
<b>Global demand</b>					
Past change	0	3	3	4	2
Future change	1	5	5	7	6
<b>Foreign demand</b>					
Past change	3	7	9	3	4
Future change	5	10	11	14	7
<b>Production factors</b>					
Production bottlenecks (in %)	22	23	25	29	23
Assessment of productive capacity	14	14	20	16	13
Production capacity utilisation rate (in %)	84.5	82.3	82.3	82.2	80.7
<b>Difficulties of supply and demand</b>					
Difficulties of supply and demand	8	12	11	10	10
Difficulties of supply	20	14	21	15	14
Difficulties of demand	44	39	37	43	43

\* : Long-term average since 1976.

The results of the last survey are preliminary.

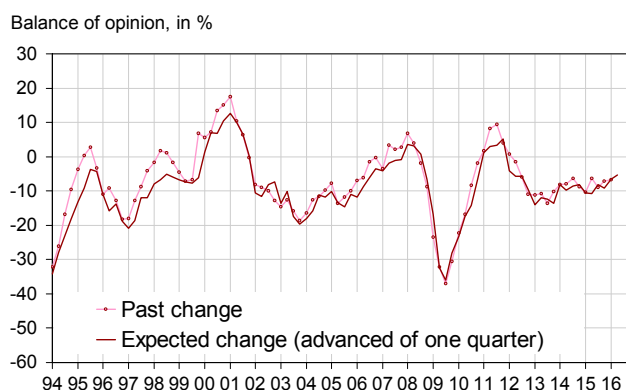
Source: INSEE - Quarterly business survey

### Balances on workforce are virtually stable

In January 2016, as many industrialists as in October have reported a decrease of the workforce during the past three months. Over the next few months, almost as many industrialists as in the previous quarter forecast job losses. Both balances have been above their long-term average since October 2013.

Three out of ten industrialists have experienced hiring difficulties; this part has been virtually stable since April 2013 close to its long-term average.

#### Workforce size in the manufacturing industry



### Slight increase in wages

According to the business managers in the manufacturing industry, wages increased by 0.3% in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Since April 2015, the balance of opinion on working time has been virtually stable above its long-term average. A few more industrialists foresee a decrease in this working time over the next few months.

### Smaller decline in selling prices

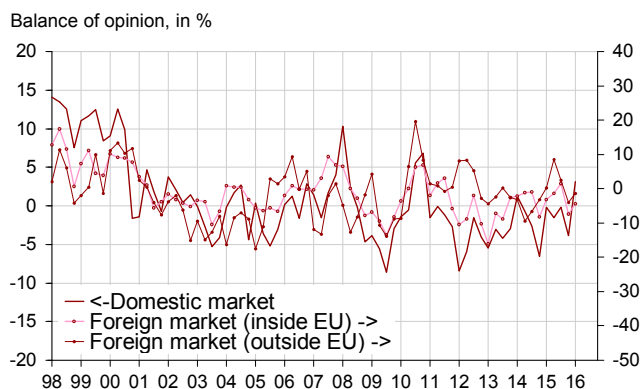
According to industrialists, selling prices in the manufacturing industry have dropped in Q4 2015 at a lower pace than in Q3 (-0.6% after -1.4%); they forecast a new decline for the next quarter (-0.4%).

Slightly fewer industrialists than in the previous quarter have experienced cash-flow problems (11%). This proportion stands below its mean level (15%).

### Improvement in the opinion on competitive position

In January 2016, more business managers judge that their competitive position has improved, in all markets. Only the balance on competitive position on foreign market inside European Union is still below its long-term average. Moreover, industrialists remain optimistic on general exportation prospects: the corresponding balance is virtually stable, significantly above its long period average.

#### Competitive position



### Industrialists' opinion: employment, competitive position, cash-flow, wages and selling prices

		Balance of opinion, in %			
Manufacturing industry	Mean	April 15	July 15	Oct. 15	Jan. 16
<b>Workforce size</b>					
Past change	-11	-6	-9	-7	-7
Expected change	-13	-8	-9	-6	-5
Difficulties hiring	28	27	29	29	29
<b>Working time</b>					
Past change	-3	2	1	2	2
Expected change	-5	0	-1	2	-1
<b>Cash-flow and wages</b>					
Cash-flow problems	15	12	13	13	11
Past wages	0,5	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,3
<b>Selling prices</b>					
Past change	0,1	1,0	0,1	-1,4	-0,6
Expected change	0,2	-0,2	-0,2	-1,4	-0,4
<b>Competitive position</b>					
On domestic market	1	-2	0	-4	3
On foreign markets inside EU	-1	-1	2	-7	-4
On foreign markets outside EU	-1	9	2	-4	-1
General exportation expectations	-10	7	5	4	3

\* : Long-term average since 1976.

The results of the last survey are preliminary.

A quantitative question is asked about selling prices and past wage.

Source: INSEE - Quarterly business survey

### For more information:

The quarterly survey completes the monthly survey published in the version dated January 21 2016, notably on demand and production factors.

- Complementary data (long series) and metadata (methodology, linked internet pages, etc.) are available on the web page of this index: <http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/indicateur.asp?id=12>
- Press contact: [bureau-de-presse@insee.fr](mailto:bureau-de-presse@insee.fr)
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